

26 August 1983

Mr. Clarence F. Lyons
Chief, Judicial, Fiscal and Social Branch
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Mr. Lyons:

The enclosed letter from Ms. Barbara Ennis, Department of State, requests that we authorize a Department of State historian, Dr. David W. Mabon, access to CIA documents on Vietnam, 1955-1960, in your Record Group 273, "Records of the National Security Council". We understand that Dr. Mabon is carrying out research on the Vietnam War, 1955-1960, for the Department of State's Foreign Relations of the United States series.

We understand that the Department of State will certify Dr. Mabon's Top Secret and compartmented information clearances directly to you. We are therefore glad to authorize him access to all CIA-related material in Record Group 273 at the level of his clearances or lower that is pertinent to the subject of his research.

We shall also enclose a copy of our "CIA Records Access Policy" to guide your office in handling these CIA documents. As indicated in paragraph three of this policy statement, Dr. Mabon is free to take notes and to have copies made of CIA documents, so long as the National Archives collects and sends these notes and copies to this office. After CIA review, we shall send Dr. Mabon the documents and notes released, and notify him (and you) of any material that cannot be released.

We are forwarding a copy of this authorization to Ms. Ennis and to the Historian, Dr. Slany, at the Department of State.

With many thanks for your help,

Yours sincerely,



J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief Historian

Enclosures